



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: DAVIS AND LUNGREN DEBATE IN FRESNO FOR HEART & SOUL OF CENTRAL VALLEY.

Editor's note: Demo Lt. Gov. Gray Davis and GOP AG Dan Lungren finished their 2nd gubernatorial debate Aug. 19th with little new ground broken in another *mud wrestling* match. Here's our analysis...

...The second of five debates was held at CSU Fresno, in the heart of Calif.'s agriculturally rich Central Valley, one of the fastest growing regions of the State. It's an important region politically because it's up for grabs this Nov. 3rd. Gov. Pete Wilson(R) carried the Central Valley in both of his elections and Pres. Bill Clinton(D) carried it in '96...

...Davis and Lungren both made strong appeals to Central Valley voters in this debate, with Lungren being more specific on land, ag & water issues than Davis, but Davis was first to state his desire to put another UC campus in Merced. And there was the usual round of finger pointing by both on the death penalty & abortion. And the two differed on school vouchers, with Lungren in favor and Davis very much opposed...

...But one thing was different in debate #2. Davis was certainly *more aggressive* and this really showed when he went after Lungren for trying to distort his (Davis') record on the death penalty. And Davis wrapped himself so close to popular Central Valley U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D) on the death penalty that one would have thought they were *long lost brothers*. This new aggressive style certainly got Lungren's attention. Davis did something else which was different from the first debate: he started blasting Lungren's U.S. House voting record. And Davis compared Lungren to current U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, noting that when compared to Lungren's conservative voting record, Newt was almost a *moderte!!!* A good sound bite...

...FYI: Although it's not on the political radar scope of voters, there was an interesting exchange over reconfirmation of Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George and Justice Ming Chin, both appointed by Gov. Wilson. Davis noted that Lungren had voted to confirm them when they were first appointed, but scolded Lungren for not sticking by them this Nov. 3rd simply because the two jurists voted to overturn Calif.'s parental consent law on abortions for minors. It was yet another way for Davis to hit Lungren on abortion and drive a wedge between Lungren and Wilson. From the tone of Lungren's response to Davis' question about George and Chin, you'd have thought that instead of being *neutral*, Lungren actually was against both of these high court judges. And in fact, some sources think Lungren would be delighted if both justices were defeated Nov. 3rd. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK WILL BE ON VACATION FOR TWO WEEKS

By the time you get this issue of **Calpeek**, we'll be taking our last two weeks of summer vacation, but will return to work the day after Labor Day - Sept. 8th. Your next **Calpeek** will be dated Sept. 14th (issue #33)...

CAMPAIGN '98: THREE SOLID DEMOS BATTLE IN 9TH SD SPECIAL TO REPLACE LEE IN THE CALIF. SENATE

Editor's note: The Sept. 1st special election in the 9th Senate District (East Bay area - Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda) has almost been overlooked not only by the news media, but by voters as well. Here's our report and analysis...

...This is the district that was represented forever by Sen. Nicholas Petris(D-Oakland), until *term limits* forced him out of office. In 1996, this Demo SD was captured by Assemblywoman Barbara Lee, once an aide to former Congressman Ron Dellums. But when Dellums retired from the U.S. House earlier this year,

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Lee jumped at the chance to move up the ladder and won the 9th CD special election Apr. 7th - thus creating a vacancy for her seat...

...When Gov. Wilson called the special to replace Lee, there were only two serious rivals: freshman Demo Assemblywoman Dion Aroner of Berkeley, who has hired the Lew Edwards Group; and Alameda Co. Sup. Keith Carson, who hired consultant Gale Kaufman, who also is Barbara Lee's consultant. Sources say the third serious candidate, freshman Assemblyman Don Perata(D), wasn't really looking here until his campaign for Assembly Speaker fizzled out. And when it became clear that the new senator might get 10 years in office, that was the *key* which pushed Perata into this special. Before that, sources say, he was helping Carson...

...Special elections such as this one are about *turnout* and *political bases*. And all our sources agree turnout will be miserably low (12-16%). Thus the polling recently done for Perata among 400 likely voters by Evans McDonough Co. may not mean that much. But for what it's worth, here's what the poll showed: Perata **29%**, Aroner **17%**, Carson **7%**, undecided **38%** and others **9%**. The "others" in this special are GOp Deborah Wright and P&F candidate Marsha Feinland. So there will be a Nov. 3rd runoff...

...In terms of *political bases* of support, Aroner is the strong female in this special and is from Berkeley. Carson is Black and has strong support from both Lee and Dellums. Perata is white and his Alameda base is considered his strong point. *Conventional wisdom* is that the 2 men split the vote and Aroner wins. But most of Carson's supervisorial district overlaps with Aroner's 14th AD - not Perata's 16th AD. So it's possible that Carson and Aroner may split votes...

...FYI: Another plus for Perata: his vote by mail program has collected 4,861 (as of 8/11), compared to Carson's and Aroner's VBM of about 2,000 each. Whitehurst Campaigns did Perata's VBM program, but Perata is directing his own campaign. He's also won the endorsement of the S.F. Chron --- and Perata's warchest is bigger than either Aroner's or Carson's. Some sources (not all) believe this is Perata's race to win or lose. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY: BIG POLITICAL DEBATE OVER FUTURE DIRECTION OF NATION'S SECOND LARGEST CITY..

Editor's note: No matter where you live in Calif., you have undoubtedly heard about the San Fernando Valley secession movement from the City of Los Angeles and L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan's efforts to keep the city together by reforming the outdated City Charter. **Cal-peek** now takes a brief look at what's going on because the political temperature is rising. Here's our analysis...

...The secession movement is very serious and on Aug. 27th the group leading the drive, Valley Vote, is supposed to turn in petitions to LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission). Valley Vote needs 135,000 valid signatures to trigger a LAFCO study on the feasibility of the Valley becoming its own city. L.A. City officials haven't exactly been helpful to Valley Vote, which is why the ACLU is suing the City (for not permitting Valley Vote to collect signatures at a recent air show at Van Nuys Airport). Sources think Valley Vote will have the signatures they need...

...The guy caught in the middle of this brouhaha is Mayor Riordan. Riordan, and many others, think the best way to hold L.A. City together is to reform the old charter. Two charter reform commissions, one appointed by the council and one elected, have been working for the past 20 months to hopefully present a core charter reform plan to voters in June of 1999...

...The Valley's key concern has always been that the Valley gets the short changed on services and political clout. And the "evil" giant behind this plot is the Big Downtown L.A. Business Establishment. And now this fear has been legitimized by the Coalition for Charter Reform, composed of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce, the Central City Assn. and the L.A. Business Advisors. The Kamber Group is the consultant to the Coalition, while Cerrell Associates represents the L.A. Business Advisors. Riordan's former Deputy Mayor, Michael Keeley, is also part of this consulting team...

...This downtown group isn't against charter reform per se, but is very much opposed to any charter reform which includes elected neighborhood councils, with political clout over planning and land use decisions. The elected charter commission tends to favor this concept, while the other commission favors an advisory

neighborhood council concept...

...And here's where the heat gets turned up: if there's an elected neighborhood council element in the charter reform plan submitted to voters, the downtown coalition says it will spend big bucks opposing it and back its own charter reform plan, which includes a 35-member city council (instead of the current 15 member council). There are other elements, but this is a key part...

...**WWIII.** Very recently the Valley Industry & Commerce Assn. (VICA) and the United Chambers of Commerce joined forces with Valley and Westside neighborhood groups to form their own coalition. And this coalition plans to push for an elected neighborhood council. In other words, this group is preparing for war with downtown L.A. What's also interesting is a pending newspaper war between the *L.A. Times* and the *Daily News*. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON STATEWIDE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on some recent campaign developments & activity...

☒ ***New U.S. Senate Poll*** - U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) and CA Treasurer Matt Fong (R) are in a dead heat, according to a new Charlton Research survey of 600 registered voters/July 18-23 (+/- 4%). Boxer is at **43%** vs. **42%** for Fong. The poll is independent, not paid for by Demos or GOPers...

☒ ***Attorney General*** - Another Charlton Research survey (same methodology) for the AG's race shows Chief Dep. AG Dave Stirling (R) and State Sen. Bill Lockyer (D) both at **22%**, with **55%** undecided. **1%** is for other candidates...

☒ ***Supreme Court*** - CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George, who faces a contested reconfirmation vote Nov. 3rd, raised \$463,000 and listed \$420,243 cash-on-hand in his latest filing with the Secretary of State. CA Justice Ming Chin, who also faces a contested reconfirmation vote in the fall, raised \$288,292 and listed c-o-h as \$120,831. Chin also listed debts of \$30,112 and spent \$164,740! Where did he spend the money? Not on slates. Campaign reports indicate that Justice Chin is paying the PBN Co. \$20,000 per month. FYI: Chin recently hired political operative Jonathan Choi to handle daily campaign chores...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on various Calif. U.S. House contests...

☒ ***24th CD*** - Incumbent U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) holds a 2-1 lead over GOP challenger Randy Hoffman in a new survey for Sherman by Fairbank Maslin Maullin (500 likely voters, Aug. 12-16). In a 1-on-1 match, Sherman is leading Hoffman by a **45%** vs. **18%** margin, with **33%** undecided and other candidates at **6%**...

☒ ***42nd CD*** - The *Campaign for Working Families*, chaired by hardline conservative Gary Bauer, endorsed GOP candidate Elia Pirozzi. Pirozzi is trying to defeat incumbent U.S. Rep. George Brown (D-Colton)...

☒ ***3rd CD*** - Demo attorney Sandie Dunn, running for the open seat of U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Sacto), has been endorsed by the *New Democrat Network* (NDN), a relatively new group who fund centrist Demo candidates for State, federal & local office. Calif. NDN members in the U.S. House include Cal Dooley (20th CD); Loretta Sanchez (46th CD); and Ellen Tauscher (10th CD). Dooley is co-chair of the NDN in the House...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Aug. 26	1st Boxer vs. Fong, U.S. Senate debate at KCAL-TV, L.A.
Aug. 27	SPI debate (Eastin vs. Tuchman), Century Cable studios, Santa Monica.
Aug. 31	Last day for CA Legislative bills to be passed.
Sept. 3	CA Treasurer debate (Angelides vs. Pringle) and Secretary of State debate (Jones vs. Alioto), Century Cable studios, Santa Monica.
Sept. 10-13	CA Judges' Assn. annual meeting, S.F.
Sept. 25-27	CA Republican Party convention, Long Beach.
Sept. 24-26	10th annual Envisioning Calif. Conference, Sacramento.
Oct. 5	Last day to register to vote for Nov. 3 election.
Oct. 12	Boxer vs. Fong debate, sponsored by KRON TV & S.F. Chronicle.
Oct. 16	Lt. Governor debate (Bustamante vs. Leslie), Century Cable studios, Santa Monica.
Nov 3.	CA General Election.

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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Clint Vs. Willie in '99?*** - An excellent Q&A in the Aug. 5th S.F. Chron by political columnists Matier & Ross, interviewing ex political guru Clint Reilly, who says he will run against S.F. Mayor Willie Brown IF Sen. Quentin Kopp doesn't run. Clint hits Brown for a city budget which has grown by \$1 billion, with 2,000 new city employees and still sees the 49er football stadium/mall deal as a disaster. Very interesting reading. FYI: Brown is already in a reelection mode and is collecting endorsements. The latest group to back Willie: Alice B. Toklas Gay & Lesbian Demo Club...

■ ***L.A. Co. Sheriff's Update*** - The first debate between incumbent Sheriff Sherman Block and challenger Lee Baca on KCRW Radio 10 days ago was a disaster for Baca, who was given every opportunity to spell out what he sees wrong with Block's leadership, but absolutely refused to go negative. So the debate was rather boring and one-sided. FYI: Baca's campaign notes that Block did NOT submit a statement for the Nov. 3rd ballot. Cost: \$23,000. Baca did submit a statement which is written & signed by Pres. Don Brown of COPS. FYI#2: Gary Lawrence of Santa Ana has been hired to do polling for Block's campaign...

■ ***Katz Sues Polanco & Ross*** - Richard Katz(D) has dropped his lawsuit against 20th SD Demo primary winner, L.A. Councilman Richard Alarcon, but has filed a defamation lawsuit against consultant Richie Ross of Sacto and State Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.). By dropping the lawsuit against Alarcon, Katz has conceded defeat, but hasn't formally endorsed Alarcon just yet. The defamation action is for an Alarcon mailer (produced by Ross/funded by Polanco) which most (not all) insiders felt went *over the line* by implying that Katz was linked to the infamous GOP-sponsored Poll Guard incident of 1988 in Orange Co. While defamation is tough to prove in a political campaign, Katz has hired attorney Anthony Glassman, who in 1997 won a defamation case for client Al Shugart against Consumer Attorneys of Calif. and Their Attorneys Against Props. 200,201 & 202 and consultant Bill Carrick. Glassman got an apology printed in several newspapers and

Shugart also got \$350,000. Remember the tv ad where Shugart's photo was "morphed" into a photo of Charles Keating? That was the ad which caused the lawsuit...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: LuLann Sapp McGriff, 55, president of the S.F. NAACP, died Aug. 9th of a lung infection. R.I.P...

● Todd Priest, former Deputy Exec. Director of the CRP, has been named Director of Local Govt. Relations by the CA Grocers Assn. in Long Beach...

● San Diego Mayor Susan Golding has named Ric Grenell as her press secretary. He was a congressional press secretary and also worked for NY Gov. Pataki...

● Richard Walch, who is the exec. director of the L.A. Co. Bar Assn., has been elected president of the L.A. City Ethics Commission. He succeeds USC journalism Prof. Edwin Guthman...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Field Coordinator** - To develop and coordinate citizen response programs on cutting edge civil rights issues for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. Requires organizational skill, knowledge of current issues and politics. Starting salary, \$26,000 plus full benefits. Call (323)860-7353...

● **The California League of Conservation Voters** seeks Campaign Organizers to work in campaigns of League-endorsed candidates throughout Calif. The League also seeks a Community Organizer to work with community-based organization in Los Angeles, organizing around environmental issues and helping them engage in the legislative process. Finally, the League seeks a Development Associate to work out of its Los Angeles office. For more information, contact Mark Shaw at (415)896-5550, x307...

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